



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2024

### 8,278: Environmental Economics

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (60%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (40%)

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,278,1.00 Environmental Economics](#) -- English -- [Eisenbarth Sabrina](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

A good command of the following topics is expected:

1. Microeconomics
2. Knowledge of methods for causal empirical analysis is expected. Students should have attended Data Analytics II: Causal Econometrics or an equivalent course covering standard methods for causal inference and treatment evaluation.

#### Learning objectives

After completing this course, students should be able to use economic tools to

- determine optimal policy design to address environmental problems
- understand how to evaluate the effect of environmental policies empirically
- discuss and critically assess environmental policy designs and evaluations.

Students apply these skills by studying, presenting, and summarising original research papers.

#### Course content

This course uses tools from economics to understand why environmental problems, such as climate change, arise and how they can be solved. We will evaluate a range of regulatory tools that can be used to address environmental problems.

First, we will learn how pollution taxes, emission trading schemes and subsidies create incentives to reduce pollution. We will consider the optimal design of those policies and empirical evaluations of existing policies.

Secondly, we will investigate whether R&D subsidies for green innovation are necessary for the transition to a sustainable economy.

Thirdly, we will apply insights from behavioural economics to environmental policymaking. This will allow us to study questions such as,

- Can green nudges induce more sustainable consumption choices?
- How do social norms affect environmentally friendly behaviour?

This course sheds light on the role played by individual households, firms, and governments in tackling environmental challenges.



## Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

The course consists of weekly lectures. Some of those lectures will include student presentations.

## Course literature

The literature in this course is mainly based on research articles. A reading list with links to relevant papers will be available on Canvas.

Selected chapters of the following textbooks can be additional useful references:

- Phaneuf, D. J., & Requate, T. (2017). *A Course in Environmental Economics: Theory, Policy and Practice*. Cambridge University Press.
- Perman, R., Ma, Y., Common, M., Maddison, D., & McGilvray, J. (2011). *Natural Resources and Environmental Economics* (4th ed.). Harlow, England: Pearson Education Limited.

## Additional course information

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## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### Examination modalities

Examination type	Written work
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written work
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	60%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

##### Remark

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##### Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

##### Supplementary aids

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#### 2. Examination sub part (2/2)



## Examination modalities

Examination type	Presentation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	40%
Duration	--

## Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

## Remark

Presentation in class

## Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

## Supplementary aids

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## Examination content

Students are required to prepare a group presentation and an individual written essay. Presentation and essay topics will be allocated at the beginning of the term.

## Examination relevant literature

- All material covered in class, i.e., any lecture slides, lecture notes, problem sets, solutions to problem sets and case studies as relevant to the presentation and essay topics.
- Journal articles, newspaper articles, webpages and textbook chapters, as indicated on Canvas.
- Students should also search for additional literature relevant to their presentation and essay topics.



## Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 13 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 25 January 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 18 March 2024);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 13 (Monday, 25 March 2024);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: Starting with de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 08 April 2024).